

agent and a lawyer in private practice. He served as a Sunday school teacher for 35 years. These real-life experiences made him understand people better, as the best judges and attorneys do.

Now as Jerry heads into retirement he will have time to pursue his varied interests. These include taking up piano lessons with his seven-year-old grandson Jerry Paul and ballroom dancing lessons with his wife Nell. When he masters the piano and ballroom dancing he can tend to his bees and keep making honey and hunt and fish.

I am proud to know Jerry Winchester. There are only a few people like him. These rare individuals don't seek glory, and they don't have to. Faithfully adhering to legal principles as lives hang in the balance leads to its own recognition. It is unto itself and as pure as gold—it will never rust and will always shine. There is no substitute.

Madam Speaker, I commend to you and our colleagues of the House, the outstanding career and public service model of the Honorable Jerry Winchester of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: November 15, 2007: rollcall vote No. 1116, on the McHenry of North Carolina Amendment I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1115 on the Garrett of New Jersey Amendment I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 1114 on the Price of Georgia Amendment I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE CHORALE MUSICAL GROUP BASED IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Chorale musical group based in Champaign, Illinois. This musical group founded by director Julie Beyler has been performing for audiences around the State of Illinois and abroad for the past 25 years and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this milestone in the group's history.

The Chorale is a unique blend of individuals from various walks of life who share a love for singing and performing. The organization of mixed voices performs four concerts during a season and often provides music for a variety of community events.

Since the group's inception in 1982, The Chorale has grown from a small ensemble of singers performing holiday music in the Village of Mahomet to presently having 70–75 members from numerous local communities and performing in the areas most historic venues in front of sellout crowds.

One of the group's most notable performances was in May of 1991 at the Virginia The-

atre in Downtown Champaign. After three decades of being used primarily as a movie house, the Virginia Theatre made its return to hosting live performances by having the Chorale perform its "songs of America" concert. The group is proud to have been a part of returning this historic building to a performing venue once again.

Whether it is at the Virginia Theatre, community events around the state, or abroad, the Chorale offers its audience an unforgettable musical experience and I want to congratulate the members of the group for 25 years of success.

HONORING JOHN F. RUCKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Rucker for his dedication and service to his community. Mr. Rucker passed away at the age of ninety on November 11, 2007 at his home in Sonora, California.

Mr. Rucker was born December 15, 1916 in Sacramento, California. He completed courses in medical technology at the Sacramento County Hospital, and was licensed in Medical Radiology Technology. He later introduced the first electrocardiogram in Tuolumne County and upon moving to Sonora in 1948 he established a laboratory at the Columbia Way Hospital. He also helped to create the laboratory and radiological departments at Sonora Hospital and Tuolumne General Hospital.

During the 1950's Mr. Rucker helped to establish Sierra Hospital. This is where he met his wife, Patricia. Mr. Rucker was elected to the Board of Directors for Sierra Hospital and was Vice-President until 1980, when the hospital was sold to Sonora Community. Mr. Rucker retired from the medical field in 1982. However, his service did not end there.

Mr. Rucker was very involved in many aspects of Tuolumne County, and held numerous elected positions. He was elected to the Sonora City Council in 1986 and again in 1998, serving more than twelve years. He was twice elected by his council colleagues as mayor, serving from 1990 to 1992 and from 1996 to 1998. He was also a member of the Sonora Planning Committee from 1982 to 1986 and was a member of the Sonora Rotary Club, serving as president in 1953 and 1954. Mr. Rucker was heavily involved in the Tuolumne County Republican Central Committee where he served as chairman in 1987.

John Rucker is survived by his wife, Patricia Rucker; his brother and sister-in-law, James and Gloria Rucker; sons and daughters-in-law John and Janice Rucker, Daniel and Erika Rucker, and Brian Rucker; and his daughter, Sally Rucker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor John Rucker for his leadership and assistance in expanding the horizons for all of Tuolumne County. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES' 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION AND INCOMING PRESIDENT MICHAEL McGRATH

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the Navy League of the United States for their exemplary work in supporting our sea services. In my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, we have two Navy bases, a Coast Guard Sector, a U.S. Marine Corps Command and a large port, so we are constantly aware of the impact your members have on our mariners.

Our area is home to several Navy League Councils, including the Mayport Council, which is one of the largest in the country and the home Council for J. Michael McGrath, your incoming National President. As Mike prepares to accept the challenges of guiding this fine organization, I want to congratulate him and wish him well. I am confident he will lead the Navy League with the same dedication and commitment your membership is accustomed to.

Following a full Navy career, Mike continued his support of the sea services through the Navy League. Both he and his wife, Gloria, are active life members. Based on his experience and insight, Mike can provide a clear and knowledgeable plan for the future of this organization.

As our military is stretched in resources, organizations like the Navy League are even more important in fighting for the priorities and goals of our sea services, not only to Congress but also to local community leaders and businesses who must understand the value that our military institutions bring to local economies.

The 21st Century is still young, and the roles of the sea services are ever evolving. It will take innovative and effective leadership to weather these transformational times. I look forward to continuing to work with Mike McGrath in his new role as National President of the Navy League of the United States.

MACLE JOYCE SPICER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Macle Joyce Spicer of Guilford, Missouri.

Macle will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on November 25th and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone. Macle is a fine citizen of Missouri and the Guilford community. It is an honor to represent Macle in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.